AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

The Applicant wishes to make the following amendments to the claims of the above patent application:

Listing of claims

1. (currently amended) An air valve for a lid of a liquid container, which includes an annular membrane, wherein said lid contains at least one air passage opening, said air valve comprising a reception element including a peripheral groove that is open towards the inner side of the lid is fastened to the inner side of the lid and comprises at least one air entry opening communicating with the air passage opening of the lid and leading into the groove, wherein a ring is insertable or inserted in the groove and at least one groove wall designed as an annular membrane lies sealingly against the ring, due to the bias of the groove wall, ~~the air entry opening is sealed~~ at equal pressures on either side of the air entry opening, and ~~at an overpressure at the inner side of the lid, due to the bias of at least one groove wall designed as an annular membrane, and the air entry opening is released~~is lifted off the ring at an underpressure at the inner side of the lid, whereby the air entry opening is released.

2. (previously presented) An air valve according to claim 1, wherein the end region of the ring facing the air entry opening of the reception element in the inserted position of the ring is designed to be substantially conical in cross section.

3. (previously presented) An air valve according to claim 2, wherein the end region of the ring facing the air entry opening of the reception element in the inserted position of the ring comprises at least one recess.

4. (previously presented) An air valve according to claim 1, wherein the ring is fixable or fixed in the reception element by the aid of a snap connection.

5. (previously presented) An air valve according to claim 4, wherein the ring comprises on its outer side a circumferential bead for snapping into the groove of the reception element.

6. (previously presented) An air valve according to claim 1, wherein the inner groove wall is designed as an annular membrane.

7. (previously presented) An air valve according to claim 1, wherein the annular membrane comprises at least one thin spot to fix the bias of the annular membrane.

8. (previously presented) An air valve according to claim 1, wherein the ring is connected with a fastening ring extending in the direction of a preferably central lid opening, via an inwardly extending connection flange.

9. (previously presented) An air valve according to claim 8, wherein at least one ventilation opening is provided in the connection flange.

10. (previously presented) An air valve according to claim 9, wherein the ventilation opening of the connection flange, in the inserted position of the ring, is located adjacent to the inner groove wall designed as an annular membrane.

11. (previously presented) A drinking mouthpiece of a liquid container, which is made of a substantially elastic material and arranged on a lid including an air valve according to claim 1.

12. (previously presented) A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 11, wherein the soft drinking mouthpiece, is produced by a multi-component injection molding process in one piece with the hard lid.

13. (previously presented) A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 12, further

comprising a valve assembly for the passage of liquid from a liquid container, which includes a flexible membrane having at least one valve opening and a substantially rigid membrane supporting element having at least one valve opening, wherein, with the valve assembly being in a closed position, the membrane rests on the membrane supporting element and the valve opening of the membrane is sealingly covered by the membrane supporting element and the valve opening of the membrane supporting element is sealingly covered by the membrane, the membrane being inwardly curved in said closed position, wherein, during the external application of pressure to the drinking mouthpiece and/or the application of an underpressure at the membrane side facing away from the membrane supporting element, the membrane is in a resnapped, outwardly curved open position in which the valve openings of the membrane and membrane supporting element, respectively, are released.

14. (previously presented) A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 13, wherein the membrane is substantially conical in its closed and open positions.

15. (previously presented) A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 13 wherein the membrane supporting element comprises a valve seat surface substantially corresponding with the inwardly curved shape of the membrane in its closed position.

16. (previously presented) A drinking mouth piece according to claim 13, wherein the drinking mouthpiece comprises a latch groove intended to receive the membrane supporting element configured as a latch body.

17. (previously presented) A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 13, wherein the membrane supporting element is connected with a fastening ring via a web.

18. (previously presented) A drinking mouthpiece according claim 13, wherein the drinking mouthpiece is designed to be substantially oval in top view.

19. (previously presented) A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 18, wherein the web used to fasten the membrane supporting element is designed in a plate-shaped manner with the plane defined by the plate-shaped web extending in the direction of the longer axis of the drinking mouthpiece in top view.

20. (previously presented) A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 13, wherein the membrane comprises several valve openings arranged along a circular line.

21. (previously presented) A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 13, wherein the membrane supporting element comprises a substantially central valve opening.

22. (previously presented) A valve assembly according to claim 13, wherein the mouthpiece, formed as a drinking spout, extends beyond the membrane, whereby an elevated drinking spout edge is formed as a membrane protection and spacer element.

23. (previously presented) A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 13, wherein the membrane supporting element is made of polypropylene (PP).

24. (previously presented) A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 12, wherein the soft drinking mouthpiece is made of a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE), and the hard lid is made of polypropylene (PP).